Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 RSR-01 /055 W ------ 046227

R 270550 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1052

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 3986

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ETRN, CB

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE IN MOVEMENT AID FINANCED CARGOES

REF: STATE 07 5 322

- 1. SCOPE OF MEETING MENTIONED REFTEL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. WE ASSUME THAT EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP MEKONG CONVOYS MOVING AND THAT SHIP OWNERS WILL CONTINUE TO AUTHORIZE THEIR SHIPS TO COME TO PHNOM PENH.
- 2. THE ALTERNATIVES ARE MILITARY AIRLIFT OR UTILIZATION OF MILITARY SHIPPING ON THE MEKONG. IN THE CASE OF THE FORMER OUR PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE INDICATES THAT CONSIDERING FACILITIES AT POCHENTONG A POL AIRLIFT OF ONLY MINIMUM ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. OUR CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT IF RICE WERE AIRLIFTED TO PHNOM PENH NO MORE THAN ELEVEN C-130 S A DAY WOULD BE POSSIBLE FROM KOMPONG SOM. AT THIS RATE 180 DAYS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MOVE THE QUANTITIES PRESENTLY AT OR ENROUTE TO KOMPONG SOM.
- 3. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE, I. E., USING MILITARY BOTTOMS COULD BE EXPLORED IN WASHINGTON. THE AVAILABILITY OF TANKERS AND GENERAL CARGO SHIPS OF APPROPRIATE SIZE FOR THE MEKONG SHOULD BE DETERMINED IN THE EVENT CIVIL SHIP OWNERS REFUSE IN THE FUTURE TO COME TO PHNOM PENH. IN THIS CONNECTION CONSIDERATION CONFIDENTIAL

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MUST BE GIVEN TO THE MAXIMA DRAFTS TO WHICH THE VESSELS WILL BE LIMITED. FOR APRIL- MAY THE MAXIMUM DRAFT IS 14 FEET 6 INCHES, FOR JUNE 1-15 IT IS 14 FEET 10 INCHES, FOR JUNE 16-30, 15 FEET 5 INCHES. ESTIMATES FOR JULY- DEC NOT YET POSSIBLE AS BOTTOMS OF MEKONG CONTINUE TO CHANGE. IN THIS CONNECTION THE PROBLEM OF CIVILIAN OR MILITARY CREWS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED ALSO GIVEN THE CEILING LIMITATIONS.

- 4. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE EXAMINING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS AS THEY RELATE TO EXPANDED USE OF KOMPONG SOM AND ROUTE 4:
- A. DREDGING OF THE PORT;
- B. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT FOR THE PORT;
- C. STORAGE OF POL AT KOMPONG SOM;
- D. TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT TO MOVE POL FROM KOMPONG SOM TO PHNOM PENH:
- E. ADDITIONAL BRIDGING MATERIAL AND ROAD REPAIR EQUIPMENT FOR ROUTE 4.
- 5. BEFORE PROCEEDING MUCH FURTHER, WE NEED (I) HAVE YOUR APPRAISAL AS TO SA FUNDS WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THESE PURPOSES; AND (II) KNOW WHAT TECHNICAL PERSONNEL COULD BE TDY'D TO EVALUATE THE ABOVE MENTIONED REQUIREMENTS.

 SWANK

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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